



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, November 21, 2006

CONTACT:
Monica Lewis, (202) 727-1186

**TRUSTEE PRESIDENT STATEMENT ON CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ACTION
TO TABLE VOTE ON CENTRAL LIBRARY LEGISLATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - John W. Hill, Jr., president of the Board of Trustees for the District of Columbia Public Library, made the following statement about today's motion of 3-to-2 by the City Council's Committee on Education, Libraries and Recreation to table a vote on Bill 16-734, the "Library Transformation Act of 2006." The bill would authorize leasing the current central library building and constructing a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library on the site of the Old Convention Center.

"We know what the citizens want. District residents have told us at community meetings around the city that they deserve and demand a 21st century central library, which is exactly what Bill 16-734 will give them. Tabling the vote on this crucial piece of legislation delays but does not stop us from continuing to move forward. We know it is impossible to accommodate 21st century programs and technology, or even adequately service the needs of library users, in a renovated Mies van der Rohe building. That is why we believe Council members will realize that passing this legislation is necessary to giving District residents what they want and need -- a hi-tech, world-class central library that can be both an iconic gathering place for all and a support for the neighborhood branches we are renovating and rebuilding."

#